

**From:** Biker Grrl  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 1:07pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

As a US Citizen, I would like to take a moment to share my opinion on the proposed Microsoft Settlement as per my legal rights according to the Tunney Act. There are so many things wrong with this settlement that I don't know where to begin.

Although I believe that forcing Microsoft to make Window's API available to competitors is a start, the settlement gives Microsoft far too much leeway in determining who deserves this information. Why does the court assume that Microsoft will do the right thing here when they have violated the law so blatantly in the past ? Microsoft could refuse to share the Windows APIs with any company it wanted. This settlement would force many companies/organizations to take Microsoft to court to get these APIs. Frankly, these small lawsuits would be of little consequence to Microsoft. After all, litigating against the behemoth has drained the states coffers, what chance does a small to medium sized business have against it ?

On that topic, I am outraged that Microsoft isn't being penalized for their illegal activities. Do drug dealers get to keep the money they made from the sales of their illicit substances ? No. Why is it that Microsoft made millions of dollars gauging customers on the price of their products because they were leveraging their Monopolistic power and yet get to keep every penny. Ironically, it is that money that is buying their way out of this. And don't think for a second that their donation to the schools ordered in the civil trial is a penalty. Let's face it, its an opportunity for the giant to gain market share in the only area they don't own. Here's an idea: how about Microsoft is forced to pay the states for costs associated with the lawsuit. As I see it, taxpayers have gotten screwed twice on this. Once when we were gouged on the software and again after we had to pay to take them to court to stop their terrible practices. How about we right this wrong and make them pay court costs ?

I could continue on for quite some time about the problems with the proposed settlement, but I believe my previous arguments are sufficient to indicate that I am very much against his settlement.

thank you for your time,

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